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FBIS+6046-88 4 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- September 1988

I. GENERAL

Bureau staffers received some relief from Israel's high cost of living when an increase in the post allowance went into effect on the 25th. The increase, which raises the post allowance rate from 5 to 15 percent, is seen as not completely adequate but is welcomed as a definite improvement.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. On the 19th Israel launched an "experimental" satellite into orbit. Although the launch prompted intense media coverage, particularly of the domestic and international reactions, only basic information on the satellite's orbit and mission and no details on the launch vehicle were provided. The only video coverage of the launch, which was not shown live on Israeli television, was attributed to an ABC news crew.
- 2. Following a threat of possible resignation from Turkish Prime Minister Ozal, the bureau remained open three extra hours on the 25th to report the results of a referendum in Turkey that could have changed the date of the next local elections. Although his party's position won only 35 percent of the votes, Ozal did not follow up on his threat, but rather announced his "extreme satisfaction" with the outcome and his plan to stay on for four more years.

C. <u>Lateral Services</u>

- 1. The embassy's deputy regional security officer expressed his appreciation for the bureau's ongoing assistance in keeping mission elements apprised of the security situation in Israel. He advised the bureau that FBIS material provides the core of an "incident data base" that is used in mission reporting and in determining security threat levels at the post.
- 2. The bureau translated two interviews of Arab personalities from the territories for the embassy in September, one for the charge and one for Political Section. The bureau also provided the Political Section with a videorecording of

Jerusalem television's reporting on the Israeli satellite launch.

D. <u>Technical</u>

Two Hewlett Packard Rugged Writer printers were received to replace the original FBA-1 system printers.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

arrived PCS 29 September replacing as bureau engineer.	STAT
2. arrived 22 September on a 3-month editorial training TDY.	STAT
3. Bureau Chief was away from the bureau 11-25 September for the Bureau Chiefs Conference at headquarters.	STAT
	STAT
Cnier, Tel Aviv Bureau	

cc: JN, NC